OUR MISSION

The WNET Group, home to PBS stations THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and NJ PBS, uses the power of media to educate, inform, entertain and inspire audiences everywhere. The WNET Group extends beyond its broadcast television origination to embrace existing, new and emerging media venues, producing and presenting life-changing media content that offers an alternative to commercially-driven media.

“[The WNET Group] and PBS are utterly essential sources for news, docs, cultural coverage and entertainment. My world would be infinitely less illuminated without all you provide.”
— Anonymous THIRTEEN Viewer
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

This past year The WNET Group pushed the boundaries of traditional television and community building. We did this by launching a new brand identity — The WNET Group — and tagline “Media Made Possible by All of You.” All our efforts are made for, with, and possible by YOU, our diverse audience. What will never change? Our core values. We are committed to using the power of media to educate, inform, entertain and inspire as many people as possible.

In this report, you’ll see how we built on our promise to fight intolerance and injustice; joined forces with the thought leaders that represent our vibrant communities; and ensured lifelong learning remained within reach and accessible for everyone.

We listened. Public conversations and panel discussions allowed The WNET Group to foster a dialogue with local governments, educators, non-profits and public institutions for the betterment of programming and reporting initiatives. New American Dream town halls examined structural racism; Chasing the Dream welcomed the public to discuss criminal justice reform in America; and we honored the memory of George Floyd with a town hall on racial justice.

We provided context. Our news and public affairs teams delivered factual, trustworthy reports, adding an objective framework to the issues of the day. In addition to our timely initiatives on climate change and poverty, The WNET Group launched Exploring Hate to tackle the roots and rise of hate in America and across the globe. Since February 2021, forty-three of these reports have appeared on our current affairs programs, over and above the resources housed online.

We collaborated. Strong partnerships were key to The WNET Group being the best on-air and online resource for its community, schools, and audiences. Our relationship with the New York City Department of Education delivered 130 more episodes of the education series Let’s Learn to 80 public television stations nationwide. Camp TV showcased content from 28 partners across the country, taking kids on field trips from the Memphis Zoo to the Children’s Museum of South Dakota. Education for all, whether it be remote or in-person, remained a top priority.

The WNET Group is much more than what you see on your television, computer, or mobile device. In the past year we provided more than one hundred virtual educator workshops, community forums, film screenings and more interactive events — reaching 22,000+ people. Our staff, both behind the scenes and in front of the camera, are dedicated to producing quality television and resources for the communities they identify with and serve.

The WNET Group will continue to be here to bolster our viewers’ curiosity and deepen your understanding, as we have been for the past 58 years. Throughout our history we have been and will continue to be media made possible by all of you. Let’s see what more we can do together.

Best Regards,

Neal Shapiro
President & CEO
The WNET Group
There were many challenges this year as the pandemic kept our daily lives in limbo, but there were also remarkable opportunities. The WNET Group remained steadfast in its commitment to bringing arts, education, and inspiration to its diverse audiences in innovative ways.

As one of the only media destinations in the country where anyone can experience the arts – free of charge, no tickets required — it was vital for The WNET Group to be a leader in the community. As arts organizations remained closed, #PBSForTheArts, a new initiative from PBS and The WNET Group, took audiences inside creative spaces as artistic creators transformed original performances into socially-distanced productions — from bubble residencies in the Hudson Valley, to “Götterdämmerung” from Michigan Opera Theatre... held in a Detroit parking garage.

Community collaboration and strong partnerships reinforced our core mission of lifelong learning and access to education. In a way that only public media could, The WNET Group aided students, teachers, and caregivers with new educational television episodes, the return of summer’s hit program Camp TV, and 36 early learning workshops.

The WNET Group continued its responsibility of covering under-reported global and national issues — climate change, poverty, racism and discrimination — while underlining the power of local public service journalism. NJ Spotlight News’ online COVID-19 hub had more than 3.3 million unique visitors; that means one third of New Jerseyans relied on our local newsroom to track data during the pandemic. And newsmakers and thought-leaders were brought together in “live journalism” events such as American Cities Rebuilding, a virtual conversation on envisioning the future for cities in the wake of COVID-19.

Everything we do — from journalistic work and live theater performances to virtual educator workshops and community convenings — we do to advance the mission of public television. We thank you, our loyal viewers and supporters, for helping make what we do possible, and for ensuring that The WNET Group remains a beacon of quality, accessibility and diversity for years to come.

Edgar Wachenheim, III
Chairman
The WNET Group
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION OFFICER

We have been hard at work implementing bold plans to make our workplace, productions, and community interactions more inclusive, equitable and diverse.

We started from within. Through a double-blind, two-part interview process, a team of 12 employees were chosen to form The IDEA Council. Council members come from all backgrounds and professional specialties and serve as an internal advisory board on all Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) matters. We employed expert facilitators to guide groundbreaking workshops for Black, Latinx and Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) employees and white allies. Called MAKING SPACE, the workshops conveyed tools and techniques to best cope with and heal from racial trauma and explained how to work in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) colleagues. Senior leadership and our Board of Trustees took part in racial sensitivity trainings. These trainings and workshops are ongoing and will be an integral part of our continuing progress.

To integrate DEI into the structural DNA of The WNET Group, we redefined our procurement process, launching a Supplier Diversity Program to access fresh, innovative insights and joined the New York/New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council to help identify minority suppliers. We attended webinars and conferences on diverse philanthropy, the role of inclusive journalism and BIPOC workforce development. We set up regular meetings with DEI professionals in public media, at nonprofits, and in the private sector to share best practices.

Steps towards a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment must also apply to the content we produce and distribute to our audiences. Our newly launched Exploring Hate initiative confronts antisemitism, racism and extremism across the country and abroad. When the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it a wave of anti-Asian racism, The WNET Group stepped up to curate and distribute education resources to help students contextualize current events and provide teachers the tools to incorporate ethics education in the classroom. We also put ourselves out in the community, hosting town halls and panel discussions to foster civil dialogue about bias and differing perspectives. And to make sure our content is accessible for all, we facilitated and implemented sign interpretation and captioning options on broadcast, digital and social media assets.

The education never ends. We can always improve. To produce and represent the best in public media, we have to reflect the communities we live in. We must represent all of you, and we’re proud. And, with all our ongoing work to better see, hear and engage with the people around us, we will do so even better.

Best,

Eugenia Harvey
Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
The WNET Group
As New York City’s flagship PBS station, THIRTEEN creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide, celebrating arts and culture, exploring science and nature, offering trustworthy commentary on news of the day, and inviting people of all ages to have fun while learning.

THIRTEEN produces and presents award-winning PBS series, including *Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend*, and the nightly interview program *Amanpour and Company*. In addition, The WNET Group produces numerous documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings, as well as multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty and climate, plus digital-only content. THIRTEEN’s broadcasts also include PBS favorites like *Independent Lens, Masterpiece, NOVA, Antiques Roadshow* and *Sesame Street*.

Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, the award-winning Kids’ Media & Education team at The WNET Group produces the PBS KIDS series *Cyberchase*, interactive *Mission US* history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading public media producer for nearly 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning. Moreover, through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere.

“[The WNET Group] has kept many people sane during these months of forced hibernation — the cultural aspects of the city are what I miss most, but between streaming and TV many wonderful events are available right in front of me. My friends and I are very grateful.”
— Anonymous viewer

Angel Blue and Eric Owens in *Great Performances at the Met: The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess.*

A NYC Department of Education instructional leader taught childhood literacy in an episode of *Let’s Learn.*
After 50+ years on-air, WLIW21 is viewed by approximately one million people each week throughout New York City’s five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Over the course of the past year, WLIW21 offered lessons from public school teachers in New York and New Jersey to supplement remote learning for students with Let’s Learn and NJTV Learning Live. MetroFocus continued its local reporting and in-depth conversations in its sixth season as a weeknightly program. Treasures of New York examined the world of Long Island’s Bay Houses and how the historic homes endured storms and climate change. WLIW Arts Beat celebrated its seventh season with innovative segments such as a musical about the Transcontinental Railroad, printmaking, the athleticism of ballet, and a music-inspired brewery’s creative beer labels, and much more.

“Keep up the excellent work. [The WNET Group] makes me proud to be a New Yorker.” — Peter R.

WLIW21 also acquired powerful, local documentaries. Witness Theater spotlight Holocaust survivors who shared their survival stories with Brooklyn teenagers, while City of Joel took viewers to the town of Monroe, New York as a land dispute between an ultra-Orthodox Hasidic sect and their secular neighbors erupted into a turf war.

WLIW21’s infamous “High Tea” programming block brought the best U.K. television had to offer with productions like Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries, The Great British Baking Show, Father Brown, A Place to Call Home, and McLeod’s Daughters (BYO cuppa and a biscuit).
The big headline of the year: NJTV became NJ PBS! NJ PBS connects excellent local programming to the national footprint and trust of PBS. The mission remains the same, the outstanding programming continues.

New Jerseyans depend on NJ PBS to document the state’s history, to tell the stories that make the Garden State what it is, and to bring the issues, arts and news of the state and beyond directly to their communities and families. From the dedicated, independent news reporting of NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozi each weeknight to local weekly series like Chat Box with David Cruz, NJ Business Beat with Rhonda Schaffler and State of the Arts, NJ PBS offers unique Jersey-centric content that entertains, enlightens and inspires. This local content ties more directly to PBS and programs like NOVA, Nature, and Masterpiece and to critical educational resources like PBS LearningMedia.

New series Pathway to Success and ¿Que Pasa NJ? with Carlos Medina, celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of the African American and Hispanic communities in the state. When it was hard to travel farther than your living room last summer, The Global Classroom helped youths in grades three through six explore new destinations and learn about new cultures with a team of international students, a.k.a “Global Guides.” And the legacy of journalist Nick Acocella lived on in Dinner Table Democracy: A Look Back at Pasta & Politics with Nick Acocella.

The network played a pivotal role in the first American Cities Rebuilding virtual conference, bringing together community leaders from around the country to discuss urban life concerns through the dual lenses of COVID-19 and social justice.

To complement the broadcast of The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song, NJ PBS hosted “The Black Church in NJ: Bending the Arc Towards Justice” for nearly 100 virtual guests. Panelists discussed the Black church’s influence on the spiritual journey of its constituency and its impact on social justice issues, health, politics and culture.
In October 2020, NJTV News and NJ Spotlight—both trusted, member-supported, award-winning independent news sources in New Jersey—were brought together to create a new, multiplatform approach to local, in-depth journalism in the state: NJ Spotlight News. The new brand united the two outlets and renamed both the news division and its flagship weeknight newscast, NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi.

NJ PBS staples Chat Box (formerly On the Record) and Reporters Roundtable began new seasons with NJ Spotlight News Senior Correspondent David Cruz at the helm, showcasing fresh, multi-platform formats. Both programs now stream live on YouTube, powered by viewer questions submitted in real-time on social media, before broadcasting on the weekend. These public affairs shows were complemented on YouTube by newcomer NJ Business Beat with Rhonda Schaffler, a weekly series featuring Garden State business matters and interviews with sector experts and influencers.

“Thank you for your daily news and broadcast station in NJ. I watch it every day — so informative and great station to tune into for information.” — Anonymous Viewer on NJ Spotlight News

To provide timely, accessible and firsthand information on COVID-19 to the more than 1.8 million Latinos in New Jersey, NJ Spotlight, Montclair State University’s Center for Cooperative Media, and Reporte Hispano began translating news stories into Spanish. The EN ESPAÑOL partnership translated 74 stories in the past year, housed online on NJSpotlightNews.org. NJ Spotlight News’ daily Coronavirus Update page accounts for about 20% of all traffic to the website, outshining even the homepage.

The news team pivoted its regular live community roundtable events to a virtual format. Over the course of 13 events, panelists and attendees came together to discuss the challenges of remote learning, the importance of childcare for economic recovery, the structural racism exposed by COVID-19 and more.

NJ Decides, the politics hub of NJ Spotlight News, delivered comprehensive election coverage throughout the year, from hosting a debate between New Jersey 2nd Congressional District candidates Amy Kennedy (D) and incumbent Jeff Van Drew (R), to live political analysis and insights on Election Night.

In July, Chief Political Correspondent Michael Aron, “Dean of the State House Press Corps,” stepped down from his daily role reporting to focus on weekly “special” contributions to the NJ Spotlight News broadcast.
of the things The WNET Group is proudest of is its commitment to the arts. #PBSForTheArts, a joint multiplatform campaign from The WNET Group and PBS, celebrates the resiliency of the arts in America during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and reopening. The initiative included broadcasts such as Great Performances programs Romeo & Juliet, Uncle Vanya and The Arts Interrupted, as well as the three-part documentary Inside the Met.

“I do not think I have ever seen a more brilliant ensemble of actors. I was glued. Magnificence all around. Thank you for broadcasting this masterpiece.” — Lisa Hopp on Great Performances: Uncle Vanya

Original short-form video content for the web was also produced. #PBSForTheArts tells the stories of resilience, including one about Omari Wiles and his company Les Ballet Afrik, who were able to complete their production of “New York Is Burning,” postponed due to the pandemic, after bubble residencies in the Hudson Valley.

On social media, conversation, “On This Day” and quote cards were produced to generate arts-related conversation among users. When asked the question “What’s your favorite Broadway musical” on Great Performances’ Facebook account, more than 550 fans enthusiastically responded, a 450% above average response rate for the year.

The WNET Group is leading the charge nationally with #PBSForTheArts digital content creation, curating content from musicians, actors, dancers and artists that represent the range, diversity and scope of the performing arts.
SCIENCE & HISTORY

Created by Theater Latté Da’s Founding Artistic Director Peter Rothstein, *All Is Calm* weaved a capella period songs and firsthand quotes and letters from 30 World War I figures brought to life by 10 actors.

The WNET Group science and historical programming motivated audiences to ask questions and be active and engaged citizens in the natural world around them.

During the holidays, The WNET Group presented *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, a docu-musical that relived the moment when Allied and German soldiers laid down their arms to celebrate the holiday together during World War I.

“A very moving story from 100 years ago. Told with glorious Christmas music. I guarantee you will be uplifted.” — Tim O’Connell

Once again, *Secrets of the Dead* married science and historical examination to spotlight forgotten mysteries and challenge accepted wisdom. Since 2017, *Peril and Promise* has produced more than 310 reports across every platform of public media on-air and online, providing context, scientifically sound information, and fact-based journalism about climate change, clean energy and more.

*Nature* continued to deliver the best in original natural history films as it looked to enter its 40th season in Fall 2021. In addition to broadcast, *Nature* populated its online presence with behind-the-scenes video exclusives, digital short-film series, and fun interactives. In the past season alone, *Nature* picked up a News & Documentary Emmy Award for *The Serengeti Rules*; four Jackson Wild Media Awards; an International Wildlife Film Festival Award; and three Telly Awards.
One of the top priorities for The WNET Group as the world entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic was kids’ education and the effort to supplement their hybrid at-home/in-person schooling.

The 130 new episodes of *Let’s Learn* hit the airwaves and were distributed to public television stations nationwide. Over the summer, Broadway performer Zachary Noah Piser inspired “campers” for a second year as *Camp TV* head counselor.

A host of webinars and Zoom workshops with families, educators, and caregivers kept The WNET Group connected to the community virtually. Seventeen Stay and Play with THIRTEEN workshops in English and Spanish provided quick and fun games, crafts and stories for more than 4,500 families with young children. A partnership with Cardinal McCloskey Community Services brought bilingual, virtual training to early childcare providers and families in Harlem. The WNET Group invested in local tri-state educators by launching The WNET PBS Digital Innovators Program to encourage ongoing professional development and growth. For the first time, The WNET Group’s annual Youth Collective Summit went virtual with three sessions focused on youth ethics, values, and what motivates Gen Z into action.

Speaking to kids about complex societal issues is difficult. The digital-first documentary *A Trusted Space: From Grief to Growth*, offered guidance to mitigate the effects of grief, trauma, anxiety and other emotional stressors brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The WNET Group also hosted a webinar on how to address the rise in anti-Asian violence with students. It delivered strategies and encouraged civil discourse and critical thinking about anti-Asian racism. Mission US brought further context to the plight of Asian Americans with the launch of its sixth role-playing game *Prisoner in My Homeland*. Students stepped into the shoes of Henry Tanaka, a 16-year-old Japanese American forced into a California internment camp during World War II. The game was shared with 3,000 teachers at the first virtual National Council for the Social Studies conference Advancing Social Justice.

Accessibility is fundamental to reaching children of all abilities and learning levels. “Born-accessible” game Cyberchase: Echo Explorers allowed children with a variety of physical, cognitive and social-emotional needs to practice math skills and learn about bats and echolocation.

The team was also busy producing a new season of *Films BYkids*, which dealt with historical trauma, antisemitism, disability and globalization through the lens of diverse teenage filmmakers. Creative talent didn’t go overlooked: a second season of *Rising Artist* (in partnership with ALL ARTS) spotlighted textile artists, a ballerina and a marimba player who are all enrolled in New York City universities.
AT-HOME LEARNING

The WNET Group partnered with NYC's Department of Education to expand early learning education series *Let's Learn*, and greenlit the second season of *Camp TV* with 28 nationwide content partners from locations like South Dakota and Denver, to institutions like Memphis Zoo and the National Dance Institute. Both productions were a unique use of public media to support and sustain learning, especially for children with limited access to broadband.

130 New Episodes; 80 Public Media Stations
New episodes of *Let's Learn* focused on early childhood education and were streamed with English and Spanish captions. Through a distribution partnership with the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA), 80 public media stations across the country began to carry *Let's Learn* in December 2020.

“Lockdown Legend”
*Time Out New York* recognized *Let's Learn* as a “Lockdown Legend” in their New York Time In Awards which celebrated the people, organizations and institutions that “made homebound lives bearable” during the pandemic.

A+ in “Educational Value”
*Common Sense Media* reviewed *Camp TV* with high remarks, noting, “This series offers unique learning opportunities from presenters with different kinds of teaching styles and subject matter. Kids (and even some parents) will learn a lot from this well-rounded series.”
NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Proving no challenge too big, the WNET Group news and public affairs teams continued to broadcast safely from their homes, asking guests hard-hitting questions and delivering factual, trust-worthy reports to local and national audiences.

Digital series Take on Fake premiered a second season and expanded its platform to Instagram, where it shared 60-second fact-checks taking aim at the Disinformation Dozen, viral conspiracies about the price of lumber, how to confront misinformation spread by family members, and other false claims in the news cycle. The series was even honored by The Webbys, the leading international award honoring excellence on the Internet.

“I’m glad someone thought of this channel. Promoted videos teaching people how to be more careful with the content they come across is just what we need.” — Sean M., on Take on Fake short Don’t Get Duped by Sponsored Content

PBS NewsHour Weekend ran the gamut of important, factual reports that impacted Americans on a national scale: from racism and extremism and the Israel-Palestine conflict; to the COVID-19 vaccination efficacy and “breakthrough infections;” and the nebulous, confusing world of American recycling.

Every weeknight, Amanpour and Company dove into the big news of the day, landing interviews with prominent guests like Russian opposition leader Alexy Navalny and climate activist Greta Thunberg. The series’ YouTube channel exploded since its launch in FY20, reeling in 33.7 million views this fiscal year, a +249% increase over last year. Interviews with CBS News President Susan Zirinsky and New Yorker journalist Ronan Farrow brought in more than one million eyeballs a piece, while a feature interview with Lincoln Project Co-Founder Rick Wilson garnered 4.7 million views.

“In this time of doubt and general suspicion of the news and news sources, it is a breath of fresh air to watch your show. You are courageous in the way you tackle some of the most difficult and sometimes frightening people into giving you answers to your questions. You and your team are heroes in this time of dissemblance and lies.” — Anonymous Viewer on Amanpour and Company

Consuelo Mack WealthTrack’s 17th season included a “Pandemic Pivot” interview series, exploring how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting business and individual finances. GZERO WORLD with Ian Bremmer and Firing Line with Margaret Hoover continued into their respective third seasons. Local news programs MetroFocus, NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi, Reporters Roundtable with David Cruz, Chat Box with David Cruz, and NJ Business Beat invested in and served the needs of their communities with deep dives into top-line issues and events.
PBS NewsHour Weekend’s production of solid, reliable reporting throughout the pandemic, the 2020 Presidential Election and other national issues is what makes it one of the most trusted news programs in television.

PBS NewsHour Weekend broadcasts the weekend after the January 6th riots at the U.S. Capitol received more than one million YouTube views (accounting for nearly 8% of all FY21 YouTube views). For one segment, anchor Hari Sreenivasan welcomed former CBS News anchor Dan Rather to reflect on American politics.

2021 Deadline Club Award Winner

SPECIALS & DOCUMENTARIES

Specials and one-off documentaries were at the heart of The WNET Group productions this past year.

Audiences traveled back in time with British actors Helena Bonham Carter, Mark Rylance, Kristin Scott Thomas and Carey Mulligan as they discover the extraordinary impact of World War II on their families in My Grandparents’ War.

With three-part documentary Inside the Met, viewers subject to a rare, behind-the-scenes look at The Metropolitan Museum of Art — the largest art museum in the Americas — as plans for the institution’s 150th birthday were uprooted when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The documentary also captured how The Met was forced to confront its historical record on inclusion, exclusion and diversity in art and staffing as urgent demands for social justice swept the country.

“Please keep up the very valuable educational, entertaining, news broadcasts, children’s programs, dramas, comedies and documentaries. Life would be so dull and flat without [The WNET Group]!” — Beverly J.

The Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the most horrific incidents of racial violence in American history, was explored 100 years later in Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten. The documentary not only looked back at the explosion of violence in 1921, but contextualizes it in terms of the present-day calls for social justice and race equity in America.
Rarely mentioned in textbooks, the Tulsa Race Massacre was one of the most horrific incidents of racial violence in American history. *Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten*, examined this deadly assault on humanity 100 years later.

R

1,137 Virtual Viewers
The documentary was screened in partnership with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., welcoming more than 1,000 virtual audience members.

The NMAAH event welcomed panelists after the screening to explore the legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre: *The Washington Post’s DeNeen Brown*; NMAAH historian *Paul Gardullo*; Oklahoma State Representative *Regina Goodwin*; Director of Met Cares Foundation *Greg Robinson II*; and co-producer *Eric Stover*.

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GREAT PERFORMANCES

Showcasing a diverse variety of renowned artists and performing art companies is what Great Performances does best, and this past year was no exception. From new productions of timeless classes to innovative performances by emerging artists, the long-running series brought viewers the best of the best.

With the Great White Way still dark, Great Performances raised the curtain on its fourth annual “Broadway’s Best” lineup, shining a spotlight on the best of Broadway with One Man, Two Guvnors (with the effervescent James Corden in his Tony Award-winning performance); Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles; Irving Berlin’s Holiday Inn; and Lea Salonga in Concert.

Violinist and conductor Scott Yoo returned to explore beloved works by classical composers in a second season of Now Hear This. Speaking of classical, Great Performances traveled back in time to visit the remarkable performances of soprano Maria Callas, pianist Vladimir Horowitz and the Philadelphia Orchestra’s historic 1973 tour to China.

“Beethoven in Beijing [is] a treat... It’s an uncharacteristically historic episode in the long-running series.” — Wall Street Journal

In April, PBS and The WNET Group launched #PBSForTheArts, a campaign celebrating the resiliency of arts in America during COVID-19. Fan favorite Andrea Bocelli returned with a new special straight from Malta. A clip of the tenor performing “You’ll Never Walk Alone” amassed more than 800,000 video views and 6,001 comments on Facebook, a record for the Great Performances page!

And don’t forget about the incredible concert performances broadcast to your homes: the Vienna Philharmonic dazzled us into 2021 with a performance from the world-famous Musikverein, and returned with classic melodies in the summer from the Schönbrunn Palace Gardens. Great Performances delivered a salute to the early years of Fleetwood Mac, once again teamed up with The Recording Academy* for a GRAMMY Salute to Music Legends, and partnered with AARP The Magazine for the Movies for Grownups Awards.

Recorded prior to the pandemic, Great Performances at The Met presented Wagner’s Der Fliegende Holländer and The Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess. During the production shutdown, Metropolitan Opera stars including Renée Fleming, Jonas Kaufman, Lise Davidsen, Aleksandra Kurzak & Roberto Alanga and Anna Netrebko performed signature arias and duets in intimate concerts from a variety of international locations.
Theatrical imaginations were celebrated with *Romeo & Juliet*, a compelling hybrid of theater and film produced under strict COVID-19 restrictions at the National’s Lyttelton Theatre. The production was a part of #PBSForTheArts, a joint multiplatform campaign from The WNET Group and PBS, which celebrated the resiliency of the arts in America during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown and reopening.

137,391 Streams
Streaming numbers were 77% better than *Great Performances*’ streaming numbers this season

225.37K Social Engagements
Since launch, the #PBSForTheArts hashtag has received significant engagement on social media platforms, a symbol of audiences directly interacting with the social posts, such as commenting, sharing and liking.

Because of the way it’s produced and shot, it serves as one of the most poignant and touching love stories about theater itself that could possibly come out of the devastation the pandemic has brought to live performance.

— NPR

The lyrical result is the smoothest theater-film hybrid yet achieved since COVID-19 forced theaters to close.

— Los Angeles Times
Nature’s 39th season kicked off with pandemonium, travelling to China’s Qinling Mountains to witness wild pandas’ startling courtship and aggressive behaviors, and continued in Australia, documenting not only the devastating bushfires that killed an estimated one billion animals, but also the resilient creatures who began their challenging way back to a wild existence. Three-part miniseries Primates led viewers on a discovery of the highest order of animal on the planet.

“Nature is now in its 39th season. It’s a standard-bearer for public broadcasting, and Bushfire Rescue shows why. This is no dry lecture. It’s powerful, emotional stuff, and it’s hard to watch and not come away deeply moved by the experience.”
—TV Worth Watching’s Alex Strachan

For those with a “chilly” disposition, Nature visited the fabled home of Santa Claus in Lapland, Finland, traversed the hostile and bitter-cold ecosystems of the Alps, and explored the ice mountains of Chile’s Torres del Paine National Park in search of the elusive puma. Moving north to Big Bend National Park in Texas, Nature viewers were treated to unspoiled landscape of serene beauty, featuring the greatest variety of birds, reptiles, butterflies, cacti and more than any other U.S. National Park.

A leopard mother protecting her cubs while defending her territory along Zambia’s Luangwa River proves a riveting lesson in survival. A clip from the program showing a leopard hunting a baboon garnered more than 11 million views on social media, setting a new record for the series on Facebook. Audiences learned interesting facts about the 40+ species of shark that call Hawaii’s warm waters home. And The Bat Man of Mexico introduced ecologist Rodrigo Medellin as he saves the bat population and the tequila plants they pollinate.

Nature continued to innovate on a variety of digital platforms, premiering two new YouTube productions (Animal IQ and Crash Course: Zoology).

“I’m 15 years old, and this series inspired me to become a Zoologist...
Thanks also for the advice on how to become an amateur zoologist.”
— Muhammad Malik Ali on Crash Course: Zoology

The Northern Lights in Lapland, Finland, featured in Santa’s Wild Home.
In collaboration with PBS Digital Studios, *Nature* produced two new digital series aimed at informing audiences young and old all about the natural world.

The *Nature* team is also encouraging digital evolution at public media stations, sharing contacts and resources to expand audiences, from NYC all the way to Alaska.

Over the course of 14 episodes, *Crash Course: Zoology* instructed viewers on the weird and wonderful biology of animals, and even inspired young adults to pursue zoology as a field of study.

57 Million YouTube Views

*Nature*’s YouTube channel dominance continued in FY21. The per episode premiere streaming average grew 30% year over year, and +51% since FY19.

With 239K streams, *Santa’s Wild Home*, which premiered in November 2020, is *Nature*’s most-streamed episode EVER.

268.2K Views | 1,521 Comments

More than eight *Animal IQ* episodes discussed the intelligence levels of dolphins, dogs, otters, foxes and more in the YouTube series. Thousands of viewers chimed in in the comments about their personal experiences with the featured creatures.

“Yahoo I’m so excited for these videos! I’ve been wanting to learn more about zoology for a while now, and this looks like it’s going to be a great series.

— Eli Bundy on “Crash Course: Zoology”

I sound like a broken record, but this video was wildly entertaining, excitedly informative and wonderfully presented in a way that is easy to understand. Great, great job!

— Matt Cook on “Crash Course: Zoology”
Our Media with Impact

American Masters

In its 34th season, American Masters brought viewers diverse stories of those who provoked, inspired and changed the narrative of American history.

Timed with the women’s suffrage centennial, Unladylike2020: The Changemakers focused on the risks pioneering women took that shaped today’s political landscape; it was the most-streamed American Masters documentary to date (213K). To make a bigger impact, the series presented a virtual “Where Are the Women?” Summit. Streamed by 2,700+ people, the panel addressed why women are underrepresented in U.S. history and social studies classrooms, and delivered educational resources to reverse this trend.

Inspiring generations, documentaries on four prolific writers premiered. First, an unvarnished look at unlikely author Laura Ingalls Wilder, whose “Little House” series helped shape American ideas of the frontier and self-reliance. Flannery O’Connor didn’t shy away from examining themes of racism, religion, socioeconomic disparity and more in her works. Legendary neurologist Oliver Sacks redefined our understanding of the brain and mind. Born to Chinese immigrants in California, Amy Tan drew upon personal experiences for literary inspiration and became a global icon for Asian Americans.

On a more rhythmic note, choreographer Twyla Tharp welcomed viewers to her rigorous creative process, while Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo — male ballerinas who mix artistry and joyous comedy — shared their signature style and message of equality, inclusion and social justice. Ballerina Boys was the most-streamed episode of American Masters’ season with 186K+ video views.

American Masters turned up the volume on master trumpeter Doc Severinsen and renowned conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, and honed in on the legacies of artist Keith Haring and media personality Walter Winchell, revolutionaries in their own rights. And six iconic African American female entertainers who harnessed their celebrity to advance the civil rights movement were spotlighted in How It Feels To Be Free.

Engaging a younger demographic, American Masters launched two digital series. The first, In the Making, followed the journeys of emerging BIPOC cultural artists (one of which was brought to the 2021 Sundance Film Festival), while Masters of Drag told stories of American drag pioneers and solidified drag as a performance art form. American Masters also opened its 34-year digital archive to the public, a treasure trove that includes 1,000 hours of footage from 1,000+ original, never-before-seen interviews with the movers and shakers of American culture.
AMERICAN MASTERS
AMY TAN: UNINTENDED MEMOIR

American Masters—Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir presented an intimate portrait of one of the most prominent and respected literary voices of the day. It was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for “Outstanding Music Composition For A Documentary Series Or Special (Original Dramatic Score).”

Not only did Amy Tan’s debut novel “The Joy Luck Club” spend 40 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller List, the 1993 blockbuster film that followed was chosen for the National Film Registry 2020.

Amy Tan’s novels, librettos, short stories and memoirs, including “The Kitchen God’s Wife,” “The Hundred Secret Senses,” “The Bonesetter’s Daughter,” “Saving Fish from Drowning” and “The Valley of Amazement,” have been translated into 35 languages.

We sat in silence watching [Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir]. In utter awe, involuntary weeping. I see you, Amy. I hear you... Thanks for sharing your stories with us.
— Pamela Ross (@WriterRoss)
SECRETS OF THE DEAD

Secrets of the Dead continued to shed light on forgotten mysterious and infamous events of decades past, using the latest investigative techniques, forensic science and historical examination. What history did the series re-write this season?

Three teams of treasure hunters joined the search for Dutch Schultz’s “long-lost” treasure — $150 million — in upstate New York in Gangster’s Gold. A public panel discussion welcomed one of the filmmakers and a true crime writer/historian to discuss the notorious gangster and his legacy, while a mixologist demonstrated how to make The Southside, a special Prohibition-era cocktail.

The sinking of the RMS Titanic on April 15, 1912 is one of the deadliest peacetime maritime disasters in history. Did a mystery ship turn away from the “unsinkable” ship in its darkest hour? Secrets of the Dead set out to discover the truth with a team of investigators. After the premiere, journalist and Titanic author Senan Molony answered questions from the public in a Reddit “Ask Me Anything;” More than 2,000 “upvotes” and 358 comments were posted on the engaging thread.

“[Abandoning the Titanic] tells the Titanic story in such a way that this age-old story feels new again.”
—Media Post TV columnist Adam Buckman

When archaeologists discovered female DNA in a long-perceived-to-be-male warrior skeleton, it made history. Viking Warrior Queen uncovered the truth behind the only known female Viking warrior to date.

Speaking of archaeology, ever consider a career in the field? New monthly blog “She Digs” spoke with women in the field, learning about how archaeology works underwater, the role of Indigenous people in archaeology, the importance of archaeological preservation, what it was like working through COVID-19, and more. Since launch, the feature has accumulated more than 12,400 unique pageviews.

The bow of the RMS Titanic, photographed by the ROV Hercules during a June 2004 expedition.
In 1878, a grave containing a large number of weapons and the skeletal remains of what seemed to be a great Viking warrior was uncovered in Sweden. In 2017, a team of Swedish geneticists proved through a DNA study that the great warrior wasn’t a man, but a woman. Viking Warrior Queen examined the history-changing discovery.

In 1878, the grave of the viking warrior was numbered Bj 581: Bj for Björkö (the small island 20 miles from Sweden) and 581 because it was the 581st grave unearthed by archeologist Hjalmar Stolpe.

86,600 Streams
Viking Warrior Queen streaming numbers performed 12.5% better than the 2020 streaming average.

206 Bones
206 bones make up the human body. Inside the grave were 40 of those bones, plus six weapons, a gaming board, gaming pieces and dice.
ALL ARTS

ALL ARTS continued to produce and broadcast a range of inspiring, diverse, multi-cultural and creative art for all audiences in FY21. Film and theater festivals struck a chord this year: *House Seats* aired seven new plays that premiered during *Fire This Time Festival’s* 11th season — new works by emerging Black playwrights across the African diaspora. *Afrofuturism: Blackness Revisualized* portrayed the possibilities of Black futures through the imaginations of 10 filmmakers. *Past, Present, Future* illuminated how artists interpret various stages of time.

ALL ARTS also connected audiences to performance pieces that portrayed crisis and resilience in its many forms: *In This Life* illustrated the five stages of grief through dance, narrative scenes and performance art; writer-performer Dael Orlandersmith explored Ferguson following the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in *Until the Flood; Con Alma* connected 30+ musicians over three continents to reflect isolation and related themes sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic; *Under the Greenwood Tree* showed a community’s strength after plans to restage *As You Like It* for Free Shakespeare in the Park were halted due to the pandemic; and *The First Twenty* explored the cultural shifts that have taken place during the first two decades of the 21st century.

ALL ARTS premiered some of its initiatives on social media, such as with the *Ballerina Book Club*, a partnership with American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Isabella Boylston. Bolstyn not only interviewed authors and special guests (like Misty Copeland!), but also hosted live book club discussions on her Instagram account.


ALL ARTS partnered with 22 organizations in FY2021, including Isabella Boylston; The Tank; The Public Theater; Women of Color on Broadway; Urban Bush Women; Grand Band; A Blade of Grass Films; Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; Guggenheim’s Works & Process; Dance Camera West; Richard Alston Dance Company; Double Edge Theatre; New Yorkers for Culture & Arts; The Peace Studio; ArtDocs; Cyprian Films; Kyle Abraham and A.I.M.; Pam Tanowitz and Pam Tanowitz Dance; Kinetic Light; PEN America; The Resonant Bodies Festival; and National Sawdust.
The inaugural Past, Present, Future dance film festival presented three works that illuminated how the artists interpret various stages of time. ALL ARTS used closed captioning, open captioning, audio description, and American Sign Language for this festival, so that the films could be enjoyed by all viewers.

Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD)
As part of the 2021 Digital Inclusion Conference, ALL ARTS’ panel discussion on accessibility explored how inclusivity encourages businesses, community groups and educators to understand the importance of baking accessibility into live and recorded performances to expand audiences and build awareness.

+572% Social Engagement
Over the past year (July 2020 – June 2021), audience engagement with all ALL ARTS social media content (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Instagram Stories) increased by 572%.

“Access is art. It is integral and essential to our work and the world.”
— Alice Sheppard, founder and Artistic Director of Kinetic Light

“What I love about the Festival was the integration of the access features into the artistry of the work... it brings up the business case for inclusion and providing accommodations... It’s good for the bottom line. It’s good for your mission.”
— Beth M. Bienvenu, National Endowment for the Arts
In its first year as part of The WNET Group, WLIW-FM opened a new studio in Southampton, Long Island: radio host Brian Cosgrove inaugurated the space by broadcasting local program The Afternoon Ramble. The public radio station quickly added new local programs to the schedule, including Behind the Headlines — a collaboration with Express News Group that welcomed East End and regional public affairs journalists to discuss the latest local and regional news — and WLIW-FM In Conversation. WLIW-FM also aired a number of documentaries, celebrating NPR’s 50th anniversary with Fifty and Forward, and debuting the radio premiere of In Their Footsteps, an audio version of Ashley Adelman’s play detailing the experiences of five American women who served their country during The Vietnam War.

The station also gave “made for television” programs a second life on radio. Local television news magazine MetroFocus began airing weeknights at 11pm, while George Hirsch Lifestyle Radio, an extension of the long-running public television series, will bring weekly informative and entertaining conversations about food and lifestyle starting in Fall 2021. WLIW-FM also collaborated with The WNET Group’s three multiplatform initiatives on three specials with panelists that gave a local perspective to global issues. Exploring Hate on Eastern Long Island examined the deep-seated roots of hate on Eastern Long Island; Peril and Promise: The Challenge of Climate Change looked at the effects climate change is already having on Eastern, Long Island and what actions local communities are taking; and Chasing the Dream’s A Tale of Two Teachers spotlighted two married Long Island educators and their experiences teaching at different schools over the course of the pandemic.

The station even dipped into podcasts, streaming Reid My Mind, a podcast featuring compelling people impacted by all degrees of blindness and disability, on wliw.org/radio. And just in time for the summer, WLIW-FM made itself known with an outdoor advertising campaign, which included a digital billboard on Sunrise Highway and a WLIW-FM-branded Hampton Jitney!
LIW-FM In Conversation brought dynamic conversation and voices from the East End of Long Island and beyond to radio listeners, addressing topics like the state of hospitality and sports franchises during the pandemic, to the importance of arts and culture as a way to address social justice issues.

Guests include Sarah Arison and Aileen Park (National YoungArts Foundation), Deborra-Lee Furness (actor, director, human rights activist), Anna Deavere Smith (actor, playwright, professor), Agnes Gund (philanthropist) and Jonathan Tisch (Chairman and CEO, Loews Hotels & Co, co-owner of The New York Giants).
POWERED BY VIEWER QUESTIONS and featuring live viewer interaction, Chat Box with David Cruz welcomed newsmakers from across the state to take on the most important issues facing New Jersey and the region.

The series has welcomed guests like New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli, New Jersey State Police Superintendent Col. Patrick Callahan, U.S. Senator Cory Booker and musician Steven Van Zandt.

The top performing Chat Box segment with 15.8K+ views featured New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez (D), who spoke about President Joe Biden’s immigration agenda, the latest on the COVID-19 relief bill and former President Trump’s second impeachment trial.

“Beyond the Box”

Web-exclusive extras that didn’t make it into the program gave a deeper dive into Chat Box guests and issues.

The fact that we can now share these conversations in real-time with our audience makes them even more timely and engaging, not to mention fun to moderate.

— David Cruz, Host, Chat Box
As remote work continued and the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, local reporting became more important than ever to keep communities informed, aware and educated about the virus. MetroFocus reported the facts and myths of the virus, how people can access the vaccine, racial disparity related to vaccine access, and more in partnership with Chasing the Dream, The WNET Group initiative on poverty and opportunity in America.

The nightly news magazine also looked at the rise of hate crimes against the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI community), welcoming Chris Kwok, Asian American Bar Association Board member and Jo-Ann Yoo, the Executive Director of the Asian American Federation, to discuss the disturbing trend and the driving force behind it. The reporting was in collaboration with Exploring Hate, The WNET Group initiative examining the roots and rise of antisemitism, racism and extremism in America.

COVID-19 collateral damage on non-essential medical visits affected ophthalmology the hardest, with an 80% drop in visits. MetroFocus’ “Medical Marvels” series took viewers inside the operating room at the Mackool Eye Institute with Dr.’s Richard and RJ Mackool, a father-son team working diligently to reverse the statistics and restore sight.

Social justice issues were also placed in the spotlight. The team followed up on the trial against Derek Chauvin, his sentencing and its impact, and interviewed George Floyd’s aunts Angela Harrelson and Mahalia Jones who remembered their nephew and commemorated his legacy.

“Who’s Running for Mayor” was a nine-part series spotlighting the top candidates for New York City Mayor. Democrats Eric Adams, Shaun Donovan, Kathryn Garcia, Ray McGuire, Dianne Morales, Scott Stringer and Andrew Yang, and Republicans Curtis Sliwa and Fernando Mateo all discussed who they are, what they stand for and how they planned to improve the city.
Why do some people make it, while others don’t? This question fueled Attribution, a new podcast featuring people from all walks of life as they reflect on who and what has contributed to where they ended up. Host Bob McKinnon asked guests and viewers to reconsider how they view success and the American Dream.

A very thoughtful look at reporting on issues of change and economic well-being. — Katrina L. on Attribution Episode 6 with Paul Solman, PBS NewsHour correspondent.

The initiative on poverty, justice and economic opportunity in America supported two FRONTLINE documentaries. COVID’s Hidden Toll examined the vulnerabilities of immigrants and undocumented workers during the COVID crisis. Growing Up Poor in America took a hard look at child poverty in the United States while the COVID-19 pandemic amplified their struggles to stay afloat. Chasing the Dream complemented the broadcast feature with a livestreamed virtual panel discussion, where filmmaker Jezza Neumann, alongside academic and nonprofit thought leaders, delivered insights on the current state of child poverty against the backdrop of the coronavirus and increasing racial tensions.

“I watched this last night. Riveting. And there’s no easy answers to solving poverty.” — Jessica L. on Growing Up Poor in America
The COVID-19 crisis hit vulnerable immigrants and undocumented workers hard. FRONTLINE: COVID’s Hidden Toll, with support from The WNET Group Chasing the Dream initiative, followed the coronavirus pandemic’s invisible victims. To complement the film’s broadcast, local newsmagazine MetroFocus welcomed FRONTLINE’s award-winning filmmaker Daffodil Altan to share stories from the pandemic’s invisible victims, including crucial farm and meat-packing workers who lack protections and have been getting sick.

691,000 Viewer Impressions
Upon its broadcast premiere, COVID’s Hidden Toll garnered nearly seven hundred thousand viewer impressions.

Peabody Award Nominee
COVID’s Hidden Toll was a 2020 nominee for the 81st Peabody Awards. The nominees were chosen by a unanimous vote of 19 jurors from over 1,300 entries from television, podcasts/radio and the web in entertainment, news, documentary, arts, children’s/youth, public service and multimedia programming.

I’m glad this is filmed... Thank you, all of you, for finding this important enough to bring to us.
— Michelle M. Kitchin
FY2021 HIGHLIGHTS

This past fiscal year, Peril and Promise Podcast engaged new, intergenerational voices to speak about the importance of climate change, and to foster a new era of scientific innovation and creative solutions to help better protect planet Earth.

Emmy Award-winning journalist Frank Sesno helmed Planet Forward, the new digital series from Peril and Promise that features in-depth conversations about climate change issues and solutions with experts and innovators. The Power of Us underscored the urgency of the climate crisis and shows the power of a collaborative movement to fight climate change. More than 200 people streamed the film premiere and subsequent discussion, where panelists spoke inspiring climate action, the critical role of voter engagement and activism, and how young people are taking action into their own hands.

“Thoughtfully and beautifully produced... Everyone can benefit from seeing it. Should be shown to every middle school student as a primer on the environment challenge.” — Bill, The Power of Us virtual screening attendee

Branching out into the digital space, The Sweaty Penguin Podcast explored climate change issues in-depth from experts. In addition, The WNET Group’s Kids’ Media & Education team created PBS LearningMedia resources to complement the film.

“It’s really important for young people to take ownership of the planet, to individually and collectively get involved.” — Astronaut and physicist John Grunsfeld in The Power of Us.
The Sweaty Penguin: Antarctica’s Hottest Podcast might just be the most fun you’ve had learning about climate change. Get to know climate change issues in-depth and hear from experts to gain a deeper perspective on society’s most pressing climate concerns.

75 EPISODES
Among the variety of environmental issues the podcast tackles: sea turtles and jellyfish; ultra-violet radiation and artificial intelligence; landslides and fracking.

10,000 PLAYS
The podcast, which featured world-renowned scholars from nine countries across four continents, has been played more than 10K times.

The goal of The Sweaty Penguin Podcast? To make environmental issues more fun and less politicized so people of any political ideology or interest level can learn, engage, and find common ground.
**EXPLORING HATE**

**Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism** is The WNET Group’s new initiative tackling the roots and rise of hate in America and across the globe, providing historical programming and examining present-day threats, seeking to highlight solutions-based responses that promote understanding, healing and civility. Since the initiative launched in February 2021, 43 reports have appeared on The WNET Group’s news and public affairs programs.

Actor and sci-fi legend George Takei joined Hari Sreenivasan on *Amanpour and Company* to discuss his experience as a young Japanese American forced into internment camps during World War II, and the new wave of violence towards Asian Americans brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. *PBS NewsHour Weekend* reported on the ongoing **effort to root extremists** out of the military and law enforcement, and **traced the history of anti-Asian violence in America**. These are just a few examples of regular integrated **Exploring Hate** content in addition to local reporting on *MetroFocus* and *NJ Spotlight News*.

The first national documentary supported by this initiative was **FRONTLINE: American Insurrection**, shortly followed by **FRONTLINE: Germany’s Neo-Nazi’s & The Far-Right**. The initiative was also influential in the documentary **Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten** as well as WLIW-FM radio special **Exploring Hate on Eastern Long Island**.

“Things happen to the Asian-American community, but it’s quiet,” said George Takei. “But now, this generation, not my generation, but the generation after me, is galvanized and they will be active.”
The WNET Group’s newest public media reporting initiative — Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism — examined the roots and rise of hate in America and across the globe.

FRONTLINE: American Insurrection was the first national documentary supported by Exploring Hate.

The documentary exposed the individuals and ideologies behind a wave of crimes, culminating in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

If you haven’t watched yet you simply must see #FrontlinePBS “American Insurrection” with brave reporting from @ACInvestigates and team. Incredible and chilling...
— cglancaster

American Insurrection on #FrontlinePBS is definitely worth your time.
— @erinscafe
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The WNET Group’s Community Engagement department develops and expands lasting, productive partnerships with local governments, educators, nonprofits and public institutions to build a dialogue contributing to The WNET Group’s programming and betterment of local communities. In FY21, the public programs and screenings led by Community Engagement reached 8,500+ attendees. The team also managed six national station engagement initiatives — for American Masters documentaries on Mae West, Helen Keller and Oliver Sacks and films A More or Less Perfect Union and Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten.

In Fall, 2020, The WNET Group’s Community Engagement team took a look at justice in the United States with two virtual public conversations. “What Does Justice Look Like?” explored whether justice is possible in the face of legislative barriers and discussed how democracy can be made stronger by those most marginalized. More than 200 guests nationwide joined THIRTEEN and its partner, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. Next, the Community Engagement team collaborated with Chasing the Dream to welcome more than 100 people to Criminal Justice in America: A WNET Summit. Panelists at the virtual event spoke about criminal justice issues, policies and ideas for creating lasting change with thought leaders from across the U.S.

On the first anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd, The WNET Group held a town hall about creating justice and recovery. Moderated by Amanpour and Company’s Michel Martin, The Space Between Stillness And Action welcomed panelists Michael Mwenso, the Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Dr. Danielle Hairston, and Vincent Southerland who spoke about how the murders of Floyd in 2020 and Duante Wright in 2021 are understood and met by communities at the front lines of experiencing and responding to oppression. Structural racism continued to be examined with New American Dream, a five-week series of virtual town halls.

PBS American Portrait — the national digital-first multiplatform storytelling project that asked “What does it really mean to be an American today?” — wrapped up its year-long initiative with a four-part documentary series and public art installation in New York City. In December, the Community Engagement team held a forum that examined community vulnerability and sustainability across New York City through conversation with community leaders and PBS American Portrait submissions.

What’s up next? The WNET Group launched American Graduate: Path to the Future in June 2021, a developing multi-platform project to help youth in diverse communities across America explore and prepare for high-demand careers in the post-COVID-19 economy.
New American Dream was a five-week series of virtual town halls examined structural racism through five lenses: voting rights, artificial intelligence, Black journalism, White antiracism, and cultural narratives.

35 Top Thinkers & Doers
Panelists from across the United States discussed the impact of white supremacy on America today, and explored ways to make the nation more accountable to its democratic ideals.

11 Partners

"It was powerful. You really know how to bring crucial voices to the table. — Tara D.

Incredible event last night! The conversation was both engaging and informative. I left with a lot to think about/do something with. Simply brilliant! — Beth M. Bienvenu, National Endowment for the Arts
**NYC-ARTS**

With arts institutions re-opening across the country, NYC-ARTS was able to give viewers a first-hand look at the reopening of arts organizations and exhibitions in New York City.

In its first exhibition since reopening to the public, MoMA PS1 presented “Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” a mix of art and social commentary about society’s extensive use of imprisonment. NYC-ARTS spoke with Dr. Nicole R. Fleetwood, Professor of American Studies and Art History at Rutgers University, about the inventive and powerful works made by artists from both inside and outside of U.S. prisons. Giving audiences more food for thought, artist Beth Lipman and her exhibition “Collective Elegy” on display at the Museum of Arts and Design meditated on time and mortality, as well as consumer culture and its impact on the planet, most notably through provocative glass installations.

Traveling outdoors to the New York Botanical Garden, viewers were able to experience contemporary Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama work “KUSAMA: Cosmic Nature,” an engaging display with colors, patterns and cycles of plants and flowers.

**Poster House** is the only museum of its kind in the United States — it’s dedicated exclusively to posters from their earliest appearance in the late 1800s to their present-day use. NYC-ARTS profiled the unique museum’s opening, its 10K+ poster collection, virtual panels, learning opportunities and more.

Considered to be one of the most influential British artists of our time, David Hockney is still working into his eighties. The Morgan Library & Museum’s Director Colin B. Bailey took viewers through the exhibition “David Hockney: Drawing from Life,” which featured more than 100 of Hockney’s portraits on paper, as well as his drawing practice.

NYC-ARTS captured the visionary transformation of the nation’s busiest transportation hub: Moynihan Train Hall at Penn Station. The reimagined public space features three installations commissioned by New York State in partnership with Public Art Fund.

“The Spirit of Ailey” looked at the youth programs offered by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Soloman Dumas, a dancer with AileyCamp since the age of 13, spoke to NYC-ARTS about how that program inspired him and other young men who wish to dance.
OUR EVENTS

Over the course of FY21, The WNET Group made the effort to stay connected to its donors, patrons and community-at-large by hosting 43 virtual events. One event (above) welcomed the team behind Nature: Spy in the Wild series alongside some of the audiences favorite animal cams!

One virtual event featured America’s Test Kitchen hosts Jack Bishop and Julia Collin Davison who demonstrated six secrets for “stress-free” holiday meals just in time for Thanksgiving.

Over three days, American Cities Rebuilding explored how cities could address their economy, healthcare, education and more during current conditions and how they could emerge as resilient and thriving ecosystems.

The event, open to the public, convened nationally-recognized experts such as journalist Christiane Amanpour, Hon. Ras Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark, NJ; U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Thasunda Brown Duckett, CEO, Chase Consumer Banking (above); Jonathan Holloway, President, Rutgers University; Don Katz, Founder and Executive Chairman, Audible; and Richard E. Besser, MD, President & CEO, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
OUR EVENTS

The WNET Group’s 2021 gala celebrated our vital work in supporting educators, parents, and students, recognizing: **John B. King Jr.**, former U.S Secretary of Education and President and CEO of The Education Trust; **Laura Bilodeau Overdeck**, Founder and President, Bedtime Math; **New 42/Russell Granet**, President & CEO; Tristate-area frontline educators and Verizon.

Matthew Whitaker, one of the FY22 ALL ARTS Artists-in-Residence, performed “My Favorite Things” at the event, in addition to students from the **Frank Sinatra School of the Arts**, as well as special appearances by **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, **Rita Moreno**, **Hoda Kotb**, and **Cookie Monster**!

NJ PBS honored some of the individuals and organizations who provided leadership to help New Jersey communities as they have struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic: 2020 NJEA Teacher of the Year **Kimberly Dickstein Hughes** and University Hospital President & CEO Dr. **Shereef Elnahal**, in addition to organizations: BD, Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, and Ørsted.

Broadway artist **Shereen Pimentel** performed “Sing Happy” at the virtual event.
FINANCIALS

Consolidated Statements of Operating Activities

**Revenue**

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<th>Description</th>
<th>FY20 Actual</th>
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<td>Contributions: Individuals, Corporations, Foundations</td>
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<td>Program Support: Government, Individuals, Corporations, Foundations</td>
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<td>Station Operations Grants (excluding program support)</td>
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**Operating Expenses**

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<td>Programming &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Less: Funded Capital Projects</td>
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**Components of Net Assets**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY20 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$70,354,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted for future programing</td>
<td>$142,799,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>$92,008,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$305,161,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The WNET Group
Media Made Possible by All of You
AWARDS

Select Awards FY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

NEWS & DOCUMENTARY EMMY AWARDS
Outstanding Nature Documentary
Nature: The Serengeti Rules

CYNOPSIS BEST OF THE BEST AND RISING STAR AWARDS
Best Online/Video Game for Kids
Cyberchase: Echo Explorers

Best Social Good Series
Cyberchase

2021 WEBBY AWARDS
How-To, Explainer & DIY Video
Take on Fake “How to Fact-Check Like a Journalist”

How-To, Explainer & DIY Video—People’s Voice Award
Take on Fake “How to Fact-Check Like a Journalist”

Video: Music—People’s Voice Award
American Masters—In the Making “Anik Khan: Street Level”

INTERNATIONAL SERIOUS PLAY AWARDS
Gold Medal
Mission US: Prisoner in My Homeland

Silver Medal
Cyberchase: Fractions Quest

Bronze Medal
Cyberchase: Echo Explorers

2020 WEBBY AWARDS
Websites—Education: Official Honoree
Cyberchase

JACKSON WILD MEDIA AWARDS
Best Animal Behavior
Octopus: Making Contact

Best Writing
Octopus: Making Contact

Best Ecosystem Film
Okavango: River of Dreams

Best Presenter-Led Film
Cuba’s Wild Revolution

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL
Best Animal Behavior
The Leopard Legacy

NETA PUBLIC MEDIA AWARDS
Education—In Person Learning Events
The Youth Collective

Community Engagement—Local Project
The Youth Collective

Marketing/Communication—Integrated Media Campaign
The Summer of ’69 Campaign

PRESS CLUB OF LONG ISLAND MEDIA AWARDS
Radio: Best Radio News Station—1st Place
WLIW-FM Long Island’s Only NPR Station

Radio: Best Radio News Station—2nd Place
WLIW-FM “Behind the Headlines”

Radio: Arts and Entertainment—1st Place
WLIW-FM “Edwin German, Vietnam Purple Heart Recipient”

Radio: Race & Diversity—1st Place
WLIW-FM “Sundays on the East End—Guest Bonnie Michelle”

Radio: Race & Diversity—3rd Place
WLIW-FM “Sundays on the East End—Guest Joel Melia”

THE CENTER FOR ANTI-VIOLENCE EDUCATION
The Luminary Award
The WNET Group

Radio: Best Radio News Station—1st Place
WLIW-FM Long Island’s Only NPR Station

Radio: Best Radio News Station—2nd Place
WLIW-FM “Behind the Headlines”

Radio: Arts and Entertainment—1st Place
WLIW-FM “Edwin German, Vietnam Purple Heart Recipient”

Radio: Race & Diversity—1st Place
WLIW-FM “Sundays on the East End—Guest Bonnie Michelle”

Radio: Race & Diversity—3rd Place
WLIW-FM “Sundays on the East End—Guest Joel Melia”
AWARDS

Select Awards FY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), cont’d

TELLY AWARDS
Online: Series: Education & Discovery—Silver Award
Nature—Backyard Nature

Social Video: Series: Education & Discovery—Silver Award
Nature—Soothing Nature

Social Video: General: Education & Discovery—Silver Award
Nature—Earth Day Awards with Ze Frank

Television: Series: History—Silver Award
American Masters: Unladylike2020

Online Documentary—Silver Award
American Masters—In the Making “Damon Davis: Apologue for the Darkest Gods”

Television: General: D&I—Silver Award
¿Qué Pasa NJ?

Television: Series: Cultural—Silver Award
¿Qué Pasa NJ?

Online Series: Comedy—Silver Award
GZERO WORLD with Ian Bremmer

2021 DEADLINE CLUB AWARDS
National TV Spot News Reporting
PBS NewsHour Weekend “Ruth Bader Ginsburg”

THE WALTER CRONKITE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELEVISION POLITICAL JOURNALISM
Excellence in Television Political Journalism
FRONTLINE: Policing the Police 2020

72nd ANNUAL CHRISTOPHER AWARDS
TV, Cable & Streaming
Chasing the Dream: Broken Places

SOCIALLY RELEVANT FILM FESTIVAL AWARD
Emerging Filmmakers Award (Documentary Short)
Daunnette Moniz-Reyome, “Films BYkids: Against the Current”

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION FILM FESTIVAL
Youth Vision Award
Films BYkids: Faith’s World

2020 WOODSTOCK FILM FESTIVAL
Best Documentary Student Short
Films BYkids: Against the Current
**WNET BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, WNET is governed by an independent Board of Trustees that meets regularly throughout the year. There are currently 33 Voting Trustees, headed by Chairman Edgar Wachenheim, III.

*(Includes all voting trustees who served at any point during the 2021 fiscal year)*

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**Charlotte Nichoson Ackert**  
*Vice-Chair*

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*(Voting Life Trustee May 2021)*

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*(elected March 2021)*

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Roslyn Goldstein

Peter Grauer  
*(elected March 2021)*

John Greed

Marjorie Harris  
*(through July 2020)*

Cecilia Healy Herbert

Marlene Hess

Ellen Hives

Franklin W. Hobbs

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Tinku Jain  
*(through March 2021)*

Mark Kaplan  
*(Voting Life Trustee May 2021)*

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Daniel Levine

Lisa Lucas  
*(elected March 2021)*

Marjorie Magner  
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Stephen Mong

Morris W. Offit

Willard Overlock, Jr.

Chang Park  
*(elected December 2020)*

Ponchitta Pierce  
*(elected May 2021)*

Laura Ross

Alejandro Santo Domingo

A.J.C. Smith  
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Paul P. Tanico

Diana Vagelos

Susan Wallach

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Cheryl Milstein

Barry Shapiro

Ann Tenenbaum

*Voting Life Trustee*
PUBLIC MEDIA NJ, INC. TRUSTEES

A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with The WNET Group as its sole member, PMNJ is governed by an independent Board of Trustees that meets regularly throughout the year. In FY2021, there were 18 Trustees, headed by Chairman Scott Kobler.

(Includes all voting trustees who served at any point during the 2021 fiscal year)

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Chair

Tracy McManimon
Vice-Chair

Elizabeth Thomas
Vice-Chair

Thomas A. Bracken
Hans Dekker
Maureen Duffy
Sue Henderson, Ph.D.
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Christopher M. Lepre
Ann Limberg
Laurie Mahon
Barry H. Ostrowsky
Richard Pechter
Rick Thigpen
Neal Shapiro
Robert L. Smartt
Josh S. Weston

*Elected in September 2019
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Community Advisory Board ("CAB") acts in an advisory capacity and provides a vehicle for effective community input to The WNET Group about the Stations' programming goals, community service and the impact on the community from the Stations' significant policy decisions.

**THIRTEEN/WLIW**

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John Banta
Elizabeth Bennett†
John Anthony Butler*
Saskia Chanoine
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Rabbi Jesse Olitzky
Patricia Phillips
Lori Price Abrams
Agnes Irene Rymer
Monica Slater Stokes
Sean M. Spiller
Reverend Ronald Tuff
Steven T. Yglesias

* Elected March 2021
† Elected May 2021
§ Through May 2021
FRIENDS OF THIRTEEN, INC.

Friends of THIRTEEN, Inc. is a nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors who provide community liaison for THIRTEEN by strengthening local partnerships, encouraging youth involvement with public media, developing and producing local initiatives, hosting events and expanding grassroots awareness of THIRTEEN's education resources and quality programming in the New York metropolitan region.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2021

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Kathryn Karp Cohen
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Sunyoung Oh
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Amadeo Plaza
Agnes Irene Rymer
Dorothy Y. Pacella, Executive Director

CHAIR EMERITI

Elaine Wingate Conway
Carmela S. Haklisch
Bernard M. Hartnett, Jr. †
Dr. Edward C. Mapp †

† Deceased
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WNET
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President & Chief Executive Officer

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Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

Robert Feinberg
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

Stephen Segaller
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John Servidio
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Vice President, Development

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Public Media NJ, Inc. (NJ PBS)
John Servidio
General Manager

Creative News Group LLC
Dana Roberson
General Manager

Interactive Engagement Group LLC
Daniel Greenberg
Chief Digital Officer & General Manager

Audio Enterprise Group LLC
Diane Masciale
General Manager

THIRTEEN Productions LLC
Roslyn Davis
Vice President, Media and Broadcast Operations
General Manager
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thanks to contributions made by viewers like you, we are able to continue creating educational, engaging and inspiring programming for all generations.